

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
DIVISIONAL OF U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/277,746

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1-6. (canceled).
7. (original): A junction box comprising:
 - a junction box main body to which an electric component to be connected is attached;
 - a connector portion which connects a connector of an outer wiring circuit and is formed separately from said junction box main body; and
 - a cable portion which is constituted of a flexible printed circuit with a circuit portion including a conductor pattern formed on an insulating film, and electrically connects the junction box main body to said connector portion,
 - wherein said flexible printed circuit includes a strip portion for linking said junction box main body and said connector portion and a terminal connecting portion extending transversally from a lateral edge of said strip portion at positions to be fitted to said junction box main body and said connector portion,
 - said junction box main body includes a junction box housing provided with a part fitting port for fitting said electric component and a plate-shaped first connecting terminal to be contained in said junction box housing so as to be connected to the terminal connecting portion of said flexible printed circuit and further to said electric component,
 - said connector portion including a connector housing for receiving said connector of said outer wiring circuit and a second connecting terminal to be connected to the terminal

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connecting portion of said flexible printed circuit and contained in the connector housing so as to be connected to said connector of said outer wiring circuit, and

 said strip portion of said flexible printed circuit is bent in a transversal direction along a longitudinal direction.

8. (original): The junction box according to claim 7, wherein connected to said terminal connecting section by resistance welding, ultrasonic wave welding, laser welding or soldering.

9. (original): The junction box according to claim 7, wherein a plurality of terminal connecting portions are formed on said flexible printed circuit and extended from the lateral edges of said strip portion.

10. (original): The junction box according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of flexible printed circuits of said cable portion are superimposed upon one another in a non-bonded state so that said terminal connecting portions of the respective flexible printed circuits are arranged in positions with the first connecting terminal of said junction box main body and the second connecting terminal of said connector portion arranged therein.

11. (original): The junction box according to claim 7, wherein the connecting portion of said first and second connecting terminals and said terminal connecting portion is sealed by a molded piece of resin.

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12. (original): The junction box according to claim 9, wherein said flexible printed circuit is formed by bending at least one of the terminal connecting portions formed at the respective lateral edges of said strip portion toward the opposite lateral edge.

13. (original): The junction box according to claim 7, wherein the circuit portion of said flexible printed circuit having said strip portion bent in a transversal direction along a longitudinal direction is a power distribution circuit.

14. (original): The junction box according to claim 7, wherein said junction box housing is provided with a lance mechanism for rigidly securing said first connecting terminal to the inside.

15. (original): The junction box according to claim 7, wherein said connector housing is provided with a lance mechanism for rigidly securing said second connecting terminal to the inside.

16. (original): The junction box according to claim 7, wherein said connector portion is removably fitted to said connector housing;

said connector portion further comprising a case portion for containing at least a part of said flexible printed circuit in the inside.

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17. (original): A flexible printed circuit for electrically connecting a junction box main body to which an electric component to be connected is attached and a connector portion for connecting a connector of an outer wiring circuit, said flexible printed circuit comprising:

 a strip portion configured to link said junction box main body and said connector portion; and

 a connecting terminal portion to be connected to a plate-shaped connecting terminal extending transversally from a lateral edge of said strip portion at a position to be fitted to said junction box main body and said connector portion,

 wherein said strip portion is bent in a transversal direction along a longitudinal direction.

18-25. (canceled):